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Do This While It Can Be Done!

The power of Congress to increase the salary of the President is thus limited by the Constitution:

"The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services a compensation which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or of any of them."

There remain, therefore, only twelve days during which Congress can make that increase in the President's salary, from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per annum, which is now demanded by an intelligent and well-nigh universal public sentiment. After Mr. Roosevelt has taken the oath of office on Saturday, March 4, it will be impossible for Congress to add a dollar to his salary. The President's compensation will continue at the present inadequate rate until Mr. Roosevelt retires from office on March 4, 1909.

The precedent for the increase of the Chief Magistrate's salary on the eve of inauguration day was established in the case of Gen. Grant. From the beginning of WASHINGTON's second term to the end of Grant's first term the annual salary was \$25,000. President Grant was re-elected in November, 1872; his second election was declared in regular course; and subsequently, by an amendment to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, enacted on March 3, 1873, the annual compensation was doubled. On the very next day Grant was inaugurated for the second term and began to draw his salary at the \$50,000 rate.

It is true that some exponents of the Constitution have contended that President Grant's compensation was, in fact, increased during the "period" for which he had been elected; inasmuch as he had been elected for the first term, as well as for the second. This objection is scarcely more than a quibble. Moreover, if there were any force in the attempted distinction between period and term, the same objection would not apply in the case of President Roosevelt, who certainly was not elected four years ago as President for the period during which he is now serving.

Up to March 4, a week from next Saturday, it will be within the power of Congress to provide for Mr. Roosevelt's next four years of official service a salary more nearly suited to the importance of his high office, the actual and necessary demands upon his purse, and the self-respect of one of the greatest nations on earth. Even when doubled again, the compensation of the President of the United States will be \$20,000 less than that of the President of France, who receives not only \$60,000 annually as salary, but also a direct allowance of \$60,000 more for expenses, making 120,000 francs in all, or about \$240,000 yearly.

This is not a proposal of generosity, but of justice. The increase to \$100,000 is sure to be made within a few years. Unless it is made within the next twelve days Mr. Roosevelt will be excluded from participation in the benefits of the tardily enacted measure. Let the Senators and Representatives of both parties therefore unite in grasping the short-lived opportunity.

We believe that the present state of public opinion would also warrant the passage of a general act providing a life pension of \$50,000 a year for Presidents of the United States after their retirement from office. Experience has shown how few the recipients of such a pension are likely to be at any given time. There is now living in all the land but one citizen who would be entitled to receive the pension, if the law already existed. And when we suggest that the Presidential pension law, when drawn, be so drawn as to include ex-President Cleveland, as well as President Roosevelt and his successors in the future, we are prompted by no idea that Mr. Cleveland expects or desires or dreams of such legislation personal to himself. Nor do we know whether this proper recognition of his eminent services to the country would be regarded by him with unpleasant emotions, or as an acceptable thing, or, again, as a compliment to be esteemed and declined.

American and English Savings.

A report of the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York shows that on the 1st of January of this year the savings banks of the State held deposits amounting to \$1,198,583,142, and that the depositors, or "open accounts," numbered 2,443,555. The increase in deposits for the year 1904 was \$67,301,199 and in "open accounts" 77,912.

These statistics are interesting for comparison with the savings in the British United Kingdom. There, in 1903, in the post office savings banks, 9,408,852 depositors had to their credit \$730,000,000. In the old-time trustees' savings, 1,659,617 depositors had about \$262,000,000. That is, the total number of British savings bank depositors was 11,068,469 and the amount of their deposits was \$992,000,000.

The population of the United Kingdom in 1901 was about 42,000,000. The number of depositors in its savings banks in 1903 represented, therefore, something more than a fourth of the population. The population of the State of New York, as estimated by the Census Bureau for 1903, was 7,459,514, and of this number the "open accounts" in the savings banks were nearly one-third. Moreover, the

average British deposit was less than \$20, while the average in the New York savings banks was nearly \$500. It appears, therefore, that New York, both in the number of its savings bank depositors relatively to the population and in the average amount of their deposits, has greatly the advantage of the United Kingdom; and only such a comparison between the British savings and those of a single American State, or a particular group of our States, is at all fair or of any value.

Only in a few of our States is the savings bank system developed to any large extent, and chief of these are New York and the New England States. The aggregate population of those States in 1903 was less than a third of the population of the United Kingdom; yet the number of their depositors in savings was nearly half as many as the British, and the American deposit averaged five times as much. In the State of New York alone the amount of deposits is greater than the deposits in the whole United Kingdom by more than \$200,000,000, though its population is less by 35,000,000. Moreover, the increase in the amount of the New York deposits last year was more than eight times the aggregate increase in the British savings banks, post office and trustee, between 1902 and 1903.

Will the Czar Heed the Warning?

Terror shattered the nerves but could not break the will of ALEXANDER III. The repeated attempts to kill him merely stiffened his determination to pursue a reactionary policy. His son, the reigning Czar, is of a far more impressive and ductile temperament. He is, from many points of view, the counterpart of LOUIS XVI. We therefore regard as credible the telegram from St. Petersburg to the effect that since the assassination of the Grand Duke SERGIUS he is inclined to conciliate the Liberals by convoking the historical assembly known as the Zemski Sobor, and it is even asserted that the committee of Ministers to whom the matter was referred has decided that the convocation shall be issued on March 4, the anniversary of ALEXANDER II's abolition of serfdom.

Aside from the personal traits that render the present Russian sovereign peculiarly amenable to pressure, there are two obvious reasons for concluding that his impulse to seek safety in concession will this time be carried out. Of all the members of the Grand Ducal coterie, the man put to death in Moscow was notoriously the most inflexible and vehement reactionary. He is also known to have exercised much more influence than any other relative upon his nephew's mind. It is for this reason that loyal Liberals have denounced him as the evil genius of the dynasty. Henceforth their efforts to secure representative institutions will no longer encounter the opponent who has hitherto brought them to naught. This of itself is an immense gain for the cause of constitutional government.

No doubt the Grand Duke VLADIMIR and the Grand Duke ALEXIS are bitterly hostile to reforms, but they lack the ascendancy which the murdered man possessed. Moreover, they have the strongest conceivable motive for withdrawing into the background and admitting their resistance to a mitigation of the autocratic system. All that a man has will give for his life, even his political convictions, and there is no reason to believe that either of the Grand Dukes mentioned has any desire to be the next victim of assassination. The Grand Duke VLADIMIR in particular is aware that his name figures on the list of the condemned which after the St. Petersburg massacre was published in Switzerland by the international committee of the revolutionary party—a list that was subsequently placed in the Russian capital. He knows, too, that nothing can avert the execution of the sentence, seeing that the designated executioners are themselves eager and willing to face death. Protection cannot even be assured by perpetual imprisonment within the depths of a guarded palace, for the threatening missiles of his enemies have been found by the bedside of a Czar.

We deem it therefore probable enough that the Grand Ducal coterie has receded from the uncompromising position which it took under the lead of SERGIUS, and that it now advises the Emperor to summon forthwith the historical assembly. It becomes therefore a matter of interest to recall some of the features of this body, the Zemski Sobor, which has not been suffered to meet for more than two hundred and fifty years. When it met for the last time, in the early part of the seventeenth century, it performed one great act of sovereignty, for it formally conferred the title of Czar on MICHAEL ROMANOFF, who had otherwise no valid claim to the succession of RURIK, but who was the choice of the faction of nobles and clergy that for the moment happened to be dominant. Aside from this one performance of a function theoretically supreme, the Zemski Sobor, or Muscovite Diet, had never ventured to assert even so much political power as the French States-General once or twice essayed to exercise. It was a consultative, not a law-making body. It did not have the power of the purse, for although it could vote new taxes or donations, it could not curtail or suspend the imposts that had been customarily paid, nor could it forbid the autocrat to levy new ones at his pleasure. Moreover, as the Zemski Sobor could only be convoked by the sovereign, so it could be at any moment prorogued or dissolved by the same authority. This was true of the French States-General also, and for that reason some advisers of LOUIS XVI. assumed that he might with impunity summon them to meet in Versailles.

The outcome of that summons is well known, but the result would have been very different if the convention, which traditionally had sat as three separate orders or estates—the nobles, the clergy, and the tiers-état or burghers, had not been transformed into a unicameral assembly. Will the Zemski Sobor undergo a like transformation? At previous meetings it has been distributed, like the Swedish Diet, into four orders, sitting, debating and voting separately, to wit: the nobles, the clergy, the merchants and the peasants. This is one of the important questions now said to be

under discussion by a committee of Ministers, who have been ordered to settle the method of election and the mode of parliamentary procedure. If they attempt the delegates of the four orders to sit together, a long step toward fruitful deliberation and effective action will have been taken. If they shrink from it, as perhaps they will, the Zemski Sobor itself may take it.

The Russian Government has been described as autocracy tempered by assassination. Not always, indeed, have Russian reformers found terror a decisive instrument, but this time there are many reasons for thinking that it may prove useful.

The Price of Child Labor.

It is exceedingly difficult to understand the obstacles which confront those who advocate the creation and enforcement of laws restricting and regulating the labor of children. Upon no ground in the entire realm of morals or economics can the system of child labor be justified. The moral objections to it seem self-evident. The economic objections should be only less so.

So indifferent is the community to this profoundly important question that it has become necessary to organize a National Child Labor Committee to urge legislation on the subject, and to attempt to create a healthy public sentiment. A few days ago this body held a meeting in New York. The special aim of the discussion was to present proof that child labor was economically unprofitable. If this ground is taken because it is believed to be impossible to make an effective appeal to the public on the higher planes, there is implied a most lamentable torpidity of American moral sense.

The regulation of child labor is subject to State and not to national laws. The laws of the States vary widely, and in few, if in any, are the laws effectively enforced. Behind those laws should be an ever alert public sentiment.

The census of 1900 shows 1,266,050 boys and 439,137 girls between the ages of 10 and 15 years engaged in gainful occupations. This is about one-fifth of all the children of that age in the United States. They are classified as follows:

	Boys	Girls
Agricultural pursuits	854,037	207,294
Professional service	1,869	1,107
Domestic and personal service	137,861	124,192
Trade and transportation	100,813	32,164
Manufacturing and mechanical	170,280	112,250

While the conditions under which many of these children work are probably far from severe, a little analysis is not without interest. The following may be selected as of special note, keeping in mind the fact that all are under 15 years of age:

	Boys	Girls
Teachers in colleges	30	414
Bartenders	387	1,986
Servants and waiters	15,061	118,373
Draymen, hackmen, etc.	11,544	34
Hostlers	1,810	1
Messengers and errand and office boys	87,335	4,210
Salesmen and saleswomen	12,737	8,996
Miners and quarrymen	24,113	104
Cotton mill operatives	21,095	23,423
Tobacco and cigar factory operatives	5,090	6,372
Tailors and tailresses	3,261	7,366
Engineers and firemen (not locomotive)	868	
Clerks and copyists	17,758	4,746

Some of the industries in which young girls are employed are indeed curious. Ten are woodchoppers; 23 are janitors and sextons; 3 are boatmen and sailors; 135 are painters, glaziers and varnishers; 126 are fishermen and oystermen; 3 are blacksmiths; 22 are machinists; 12 are coopers; 23 are engravers; 6,653 are dressmakers; 3,154 are milliners; 7,393 are seamstresses, and 93 are upholsterers. Omitting the "ruddy cheeked farmer's boy" about whom poets sing, and his only less ruddy sister, there remain nearly 10 per cent. of all the children in the country between 10 and 15 years of age who are working for their own living, and in many cases contributing to the maintenance of others. The result is seen in scores of thousands of children, both boys and girls, pallid of face, mentally and physically dwarfed, overworked and underfed, and excluded from the joys and delights of childhood. They will be the men and women of the next generation.

The Drama of the Filipinos.

It should partly reconcile the New England anti-imperialists to the work of despotism among their little brown brothers to know that these have done excellently in the drama, if not in other paths of literature. In an article in the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*, Mr. ARTHUR STANLEY RIGGS describes the Filipino plays and lyrics. Of those of what he calls the "prehistoric" period little is known. Songs said to be earlier than the coming of the Spaniards exist in Samar. Presumably each tribe transmitted from generation to generation its traditions and beliefs in song and folklore. The drama came from the addition of dramatic action and gesture to these old songs and tales. The songs were mythological, of gods, of pirates and fishermen, of dole in funeral and of mirth in marriage.

Most of these songs, which by their heathenism would have been so interesting to the folk-lore, are supposed to have perished. They were discouraged, of course, by the Christian missionaries. But among peoples ignorant of reading the memory is marvellous to retain. Something of the treasure of Filipino antiquity may yet be recovered among far away tribes.

In the various languages of the archipelago between twenty-six and forty religious dramas, miracle plays and mysteries are recorded. Some, written in Spanish, were translated into native dialects by the friars, and acted by them and their native students. Some were composed in native dialects by natives. Some were translated from Latin plays and are still to be seen in Manila. This class of drama, imitated from medieval forms of European drama, need not detain us.

The "Moros-Moros" plays ("Moros" meaning colloquially any native Mohammedan) have a more indigenous flavor.

They tell of fights between Mohammedans and Christians, and the attempts of the former to convert the latter; and they broder impossible adventures upon this theme. Here is a specimen plot from "Magdapiro; or Fidelity Rewarded," which, with "strictly Filipino" music "strangely reminiscent" of well known operas, was given in honor of Governor LUKE WRIGHT:

"Magdapiro is a young woman who inhabits a certain mountain of the Iles, which is split apart by the god *Lindad* (the earthquake), the split part being *Magdapiro*, and exhibiting the riches contained within. The Prince of the Iles seeks and obtains her hand in marriage, and the people acquire the vast wealth of the cleft mountain. After the marriage has been celebrated with great pomp, a flight of arrows interferences with the proceedings, an army of foreign invaders, the *Heathen Malays*, rush in. The Prince is killed, and *Magdapiro* captured. *Magdapiro*, the Malay, seeks to marry him. The girl courageously refuses, whereupon he tells her that she must do so, or he will throw the body of her dead lover into the shark-infested ocean. She refuses, and at the first opportunity throws herself also into the sea, and drifts to the throne of the King of the Ocean. The latter inquires her purpose, and she explains. The King tells her that since she has been faithful she shall be rewarded by receiving the *Pearl of the Orient Sea*. In addition to which, presently, she recovers her lover by order of the sea king. The tribal wars are clearly shown, even though to Occidental eyes the play may be absurd."

We wonder what old fashioned opera would look like to Oriental eyes.

Of the seditious plays, directed against the United States and intended to produce insurrection, there are two classes. Those of the first are not produced, but printed as serials in the newspapers, often in three languages, "incoherently blended, presumably with the idea of producing a witty effect, and at the same time deceiving the American secret police." The second type is exhibited in "I Am Not Dead!"

"Karangan (Dignity, representing the natural wealth and riches of the island) is sought in marriage by *Macanum* (Covetous), the American Government in Manila, and also by *Tanquilin* (Defence, a loyal, that is, insurgent, native). *Ulong-hinayon* (Pleasure, native soul under American orders). Her brother has sold himself to *Macanum*, and urges his sister to marry the latter. She refuses, having herself married to *Tanquilin*. Eventually he and *Macanum* come to a fight, and *Macanum* is killed. *Tanquilin* is left on the field, shot through and mortally wounded. *Macanum* sends to *Washington* for his father *Maimot* (Avaricious, the United States), who comes to see his son married, as it is with his wish that the young man should be taken to win the girl. Meantime, vague rumors have been bruited about that *Tanquilin*'s ghost has assumed command of a large force of desperate natives, advancing to destroy the force of *Macanum*, and the latter, much disturbed, however, the girl is forced into the marriage, and the ceremony is proceeding, when the funeral procession of *Tanquilin* passes the door of *Karangan*'s house. As the cataphage arrives, *Tanquilin* springs up, bold in hand, with the shout: *Hindi ka salaysay!* (I am not dead). The Americans are seized, disarmed, and the lovers united, the play thus ending happily. *Macanum* and *Maimot* decide to wait until another day before attempting again to execute their nefarious plan. However, the girl is forced into the marriage, and the ceremony is proceeding, when the funeral procession of *Tanquilin* passes the door of *Karangan*'s house. As the cataphage arrives, *Tanquilin* springs up, bold in hand, with the shout: *Hindi ka salaysay!* (I am not dead). 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